

a left crank and a right crank, wherein each said crank is rotatably mounted on said frame;

a left guide and a right guide, wherein each said guide is mounted on the frame for movement in [reciprocal] oscillatory fashion relative thereto; and

a left foot support and a right foot support, wherein each said foot support has a first portion linked to a respective crank and a second portion linked to a respective guide in such a manner that rotation of said cranks is linked to movement of a person's feet through adjacent, generally elliptical paths that have a horizontal component and a relatively greater vertical component.

11. A stepping machine, comprising:

a frame designed to rest upon a floor surface;

a left crank and a right crank, wherein each said crank is rotatably mounted on said frame;

a left foot support and a right foot support; and

a left linking means and a right linking means, each for linking rotation of a respective crank to movement of a respective foot support through a path having a horizontal component and a relatively greater vertical component, wherein at least a portion of each said linking means is constrained to move in [reciprocal] oscillatory fashion relative to the frame.

14. The stepping machine of claim 13, wherein each said linking means includes a rocker link having a first end pivotally connected to the frame at a common pivot axis on the frame, and an

Clean Version of Amended and Added Claims:

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10. A stepping machine, comprising:

a frame designed to rest upon a floor surface;

a left crank and a right crank, wherein each said crank is rotatably mounted on said frame;

a left guide and a right guide, wherein each said guide is mounted on the frame for movement in oscillatory fashion relative thereto; and

a left foot support and a right foot support, wherein each said foot support has a first portion linked to a respective crank and a second portion linked to a respective guide in such a manner that rotation of said cranks is linked to movement of a person's feet through adjacent, generally elliptical paths that have a horizontal component and a relatively greater vertical component.

11. A stepping machine, comprising:

a frame designed to rest upon a floor surface;

a left crank and a right crank, wherein each said crank is rotatably mounted on said frame;

a left foot support and a right foot support; and

a left linking means and a right linking means, each for linking rotation of a respective crank to movement of a respective foot support through a path having a horizontal component and a relatively greater vertical component, wherein at least a portion of each said linking means is constrained to move in oscillatory fashion relative to the frame.

E1  
E2  
14. The stepping machine of claim 13, wherein each said linking means includes a rocker link having a first end pivotally connected to the frame at a common pivot axis on the frame, and an opposite, second end pivotally connected to the opposite end of a respective bar.

E3  
16. The stepping machine of claim 12, wherein each said linking means includes a rocker link having a first end pivotally connected to the frame at a common pivot axis on the frame, and an opposite, second end pivotally connected to a respective foot support.

17. The stepping machine of claim 12, wherein at least a portion of each said linking means moves through an arcuate path centered about a common axis on said frame.

E4  
20. The stepping machine of claim 19, wherein each said guide is a rocker link having a first end pivotally connected to the frame at a common pivot axis on the frame, and an opposite, second end pivotally connected to the opposite end of a respective bar.

E5  
22. The stepping machine of claim 10, wherein each said guide is a rocker link having a first end pivotally connected to the frame at a common pivot axis on the frame, and an opposite, second end pivotally connected to a respective foot support.

E6  
23. The stepping machine of claim 10, wherein each said guide is a rocker link having a first end that is sized and configured for grasping, an intermediate portion pivotally connected to the frame at a common pivot axis on the frame, and an opposite, second end pivotally connected to a respective foot support.

24. The stepping machine of claim 11, wherein each said linking means includes a rocker link having a first end that is sized and configured for grasping, an intermediate portion pivotally connected to the frame at a common pivot axis on the frame, and an opposite, second end pivotally connected to a respective foot support.

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